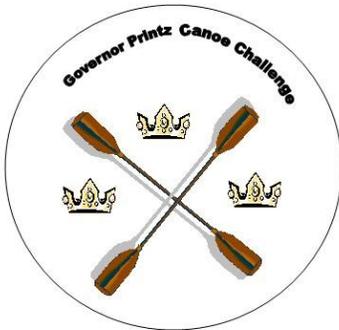


**DARBY  
CREEK  
VALLEY  
ASSOCIATION**

**The  
Valley**



*June 2016*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR:

Paddle for Preservation  
Darby Creek Valley Association  
Darby Creek Canoe and Kayak

**Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Darby Creek Canoe Ramble**

**Dusk Paddle – 1<sup>st</sup> ever**

Canoe Rentals \$45 (2-3 people per canoe)

Registration and Paddle Course Details will be announced on the DCVA website at [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org)

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**Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> rain or shine**

**Darby Creek Canoe/Kayak Race**

Registration and Race Course Details will be announced on the DCVA website at [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org)

Suggested Donation: \$20 to participate

Please register in advance **for either event**

by contacting Jaclyn Rhoads at 267-221-5274

or [president@dcva.org](mailto:president@dcva.org)

More information will be posted at [www.dcva.org](http://www.dcva.org).

At right: 2015 Canoe Paddle leaving the dock at the  
Heinz Refuge  
*Photo by Earl Wilson*



## **PRESIDENT'S PEN**

**By Jaclyn Rhoads, DCVA President**



Open space is critical to watershed protection. Undeveloped, forested lands absorb rainfall, act as a buffer to protect waterways and filter pollutants to provide us with clean, healthy drinking water. Unfortunately in Delaware County, we have lost many of our forested parcels, especially in the Darby Creek watershed, to development.

Delaware County is listed as the second most urbanized/developed county in the entire state of Pennsylvania. The first county on the list is Philadelphia. This means that our waterways are suffering pretty significantly from non-point source pollution – stormwater runoff. Pollutants in this runoff include pesticides, fertilizers, other nutrients, trash, and other chemicals. Many efforts are underway to help reduce this pollutant load, but a critical aspect has to be conserving the remaining open lands left in the county.

The County's Open Space and Recreation plan identifies the parcels that are preserved and those that are remaining for development. Even though we have lost much, we have also saved many properties and created some wonderful parks. We have trail systems and forested areas, but even with this number of parcels set aside we still have pollutant loadings that are causing our waterways to be impaired (too much pollution that prevents usage for drinking, swimming, fishing or other forms of recreation). The recent battle over the Don Guanella School property includes one of the largest tracts of open land in Delaware County. It contains

a pristine tributary of Whetstone Run/Darby Creek, whose water quality may be unmatched in the County. This is a classic tale of a developer looking to secure every last dollar from the land and leave little to none of the forest behind. The Don Guanella site is a perfect opportunity to purchase this land and preserve it permanently.

Marple residents are doing fantastic work in educating the public, the town council, the county council, and other elected officials. DCVA is also contributing by showing how valuable the intact forest is to the water quality of the area, but more can and needs to be done to protect this area and many other places left in Delaware County. I am personally aware of open parcels up for development that exist in Norwood, Folcroft, and surrounding reaches of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge that spans Philadelphia through to Tinicum. All of these places can be protected if we work together to find creative solutions.

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### *Editors Note:*

The former Don Guanella Village is bordered by Sproul and Reed Roads in Marple Township. It is owned by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Archdiocese has an agreement of sale with Goodman Properties who originally planned to put a Wegmans, whole sale club, recreational and office facilities, a hotel, movie theatre, convenience store and gas station, town and carriage homes on the site. A new plan is being considered that would change some of these plans, and reduce some of the traffic originally anticipated.

I encourage you to follow updates in the news media- for example [www.delconewsnetwork.com](http://www.delconewsnetwork.com) and also at <http://www.savemarplegreenspace.com/>. I applaud the residents of my former hometown, Broomall, for their work to save this parcel of land. The forest at this site is beautiful. The streams are far far healthier than most streams in Delaware County. See previous issues of *The Valley* for a map and discussion of the streams.

*The loss of two other huge parcels of land in Delaware County, the Dupont and Ardrossan estates, will greatly affect the quality of our air and water.*

*Continued on next page....*

As noted at <http://www.savemarplegreenspace.com>, the same sorts of losses will occur with the development of this parcel of land in Marple Township. Rather than a recreational facility, walking paths would serve our children and future generations far better. Walking in a forest is better for a child's health than walking on a trend mill in a recreational facility.

Don't it always seem to go,  
That you don't know what you've got  
'Til it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot

Joni Mitchell

Go Tigers! Kathy Goddard Doms  
Editor, *The Valley*

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Bibliography: [http://www.delconewsnetwork.com/articles/2016/05/02/marple\\_newtown\\_county\\_press/news/doc57276a7805210500735746.txt?viewmode=fullstory](http://www.delconewsnetwork.com/articles/2016/05/02/marple_newtown_county_press/news/doc57276a7805210500735746.txt?viewmode=fullstory)

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## How Do Trees Reduce and Remove Pollutants from Stormwater Runoff?

By Carl Dupoldt

Trees and forests improve stream quality and watershed health primarily by decreasing the amount of stormwater runoff and pollutants that reach our local waters. Trees and forests reduce stormwater runoff by capturing and storing rainfall in the canopy and releasing water into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration. In addition, tree roots and leaf litter create soil conditions that promote the infiltration of rainwater into the soil. This helps to replenish our groundwater supply and maintain streamflow during dry periods.

The presence of trees also helps to slow down and temporarily store runoff, which further promotes infiltration, and decreases flooding and erosion downstream. Trees and forests reduce pollutants by taking up nutrients and other pollutants from soils and water through their roots, and by transforming pollutants into less harmful substances. In general, trees are most effective at reducing runoff from smaller, more frequent storms.

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## 2016 Darby Creek/Cobbs Creek Cleanup was a Great Success!

The 2016 watershed--wide cleanup event was a smashing success in spite of the rain. I am so grateful to all our sponsors who contributed the funds to pay our expenses, all our continuing and new captains who worked so hard, and especially all of our intrepid volunteers without whom we could not manage this undertaking. The total weight in the 10 dumpsters that were used was 11.84 tons including 1.98 tons at our independently run event at John Heinz Wildlife Refuge. I would like to note that this was our first year at our new site in Eastwick; it was a great success thanks to the help of Philadelphia City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson's office. Please see photos on the next page and at [www.dcvva.org](http://www.dcvva.org).

On behalf of the Darby Creek Valley Association, I salute all of the various participants.

Sincerely, David Bennett  
2016 Cleanup Chair

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*Editors Note: A list of sponsors and captains will be published on the DCVA website:*

[www.DCVA.org](http://www.DCVA.org). David will provide a more in-depth account of the day in the next issue of *The Valley*. See the great photos by Debbie Beer on the next page.



Debbie Beer - Eastwick Friends & Neighbors Coalition



Debbie Beer - Eastwick Friends & Neighbors Coalition



Debbie Beer - Eastwick Friends & Neighbors Coalition

Clean up volunteers at the newest DCVA cleanup site in Eastwick, April 2016.

At top center from left to right: Kaitlyn Mansterski, Jasmine Sadat, Loida Hopkins, Joseph Small, Brittany Salen, Russell Zerbo, Earl Wilson

Above at left: Jasmine Sadat, Kaitlyn Mansterski, Richard Horwitz

At right: Loida Hopkins

All photos by Debbie Beer

Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition

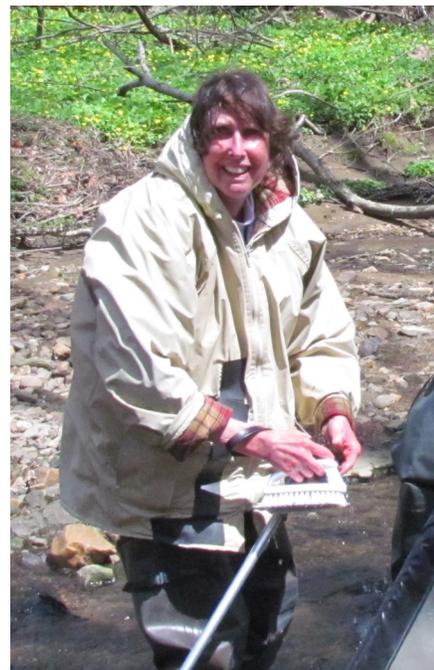
## Ann Jackson Receives the Bob Dougherty Ribbon of Green Award

Ann Jackson received the Bob Dougherty Ribbon of Green Award at the DCVA Annual Meeting on February 27, 2016. The award was richly deserved! Ann has been muckin' around watersheds since childhood. She grew up in Millersville, PA and spent hours swimming; collecting watercress; catching crayfish, minnows, and salamanders in the Conestoga River (a tributary to Susquehanna River). During summer vacations on Hooper's Island (on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay) Ann explored the shoreline and became fascinated by periwinkles, crabs, eels, oyster toad fish (oyster crackers), and oysters that squirted water when they were exposed at low tide.

After graduating from Penn State University, Ann and her husband Bill moved to Drexelbrook Apartments. They had two sons and took them to the "polluted stream" that flowed behind Drexelbrook. It was not until 1975 when they moved to a house along Levis Run (a Darby Creek tributary) that Ann learned that the "polluted stream" was Darby Creek! Thanks to the Clean Water Act and the DCVA programs the Creek is much better, but still plagued by storm-water runoff problems.

The work of DCVA is legendary, according to Ann. So when she retired in 2007, she delved into environmental activities that included the Darby Creek Valley Association. However, she did not stop there— she is an active volunteer in the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association who honored her with an award in 2015. She also volunteers with the Garden Club of Springfield, the Friends of Ridley Creek, Tree Tenders, and she is a participant in the Springfield Environmental Advisory Committee. Ann gets things done! She participates in tree planting, rain garden construction, and educational programs throughout the Darby Creek and Chester Ridley Crum watersheds. She is DCVA recording secretary, and she is always willing to help with every DCVA Project. DCVA was delighted to honor her with the Bob Dougherty Ribbon of Green Award.

Ann would like to say thanks to Anne, Alan, Barley, Brian Clyde, Derron, Earl, Jaclyn, Jamie, Jan, Jan Marie, John, Kate, Ken, Liz, Peter, Sue, Tim, Rich, Rick, and countless others. She reports that the Darby Creek Watershed is much improved and is still her favorite place to muck around!



Above: Alan Samel and Ann Jackson at Haverford Heritage Day

*Photo by Peter Puglionesi*

At Right: Ann recording water quality measurements.

*Photo by Alan Samel*

# Trolley Travels Through 300 years of History

By John Haigis

Tune: Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*

When I'm riding on a trolley  
I'm a part of history  
Just like all the people riding for more than a century  
Connecting us throughout the region  
With Philadelphia's City Hall  
Transportation heritage we're celebrating in the fall

The Philadelphia region and Eastern Delaware County in particular, is blessed by an astounding variety of historic sites telling stories of more than 300 years of settlement, from the early Swedes to the present day. A remarkable number of these sites are accessible by public transportation and real steel-wheel trolley cars. This is a partial list of Historic Places Accessible by Trolley with the route number:

**The Woodlands** (Rt. 11, 13 34 and 36) Entrance across from 40th Street Portal  
A National Historic Landmark, Mansion and arboretum started 1770 by William Hamilton. Beautiful Victorian cemetery monuments and mausoleums mark the graves of prominent Philadelphians and citizens and veterans of the region including Thomas Scott, Rembrandt Peale, Francis Drexel, Thomas Eakins, Paul Philippe Cret, Dr. Samuel Gross, Admiral David Porter and others. [www.woodlandsphila.org](http://www.woodlandsphila.org) .

**St. James of Kingsessing**, (1762) 68th and Woodland (Rt. 11) The second Swedish congregation in Philadelphia. Behind is the house used by General Howe during the 1777 siege of Ft. Mifflin, "the battle that saved America."

**Blue Bell Inn on Cobbs Creek** 1766 /1747, 7303 Woodland Ave. (Rt. 11) Colonial tavern on the main stagecoach road between Philadelphia and the southern colonies, scene of a 1777 Revolutionary War battle. Now part of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, it sits astride the "Minquas Indian Trail", is part of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) and the interim East Coast Greenway and is next to the Site of Printz's (Old Swedes) Mill, Pennsylvania's first water powered grist mill built by Swedish Governor Johann Printz circa 1645.

**Eden Cemetery**, Springfield Road, Collingdale (Rte. 11) (requires a walk up the hill) America's oldest African-American cemetery, birthplace of John Bartram and resting place of Marion Anderson, William Still, Octavius Catto and many others. On National Register of Historic Places.

**Clark Park** (Rt. 13, 34) (University City) Site of Satterlee General Army Hospital (Civil War) and location of a statue of Charles Dickens and "Little Nell" said to be the only statue of Dickens on public display anywhere. It is part of University City with its outstanding collection of beautiful Victorian buildings and homes.

**Mt Moriah Cemetery**, (Rt. 13) Part of the Rural Cemetery Movement, complete with funeral loop for trolleys. Interim resting place of Betsy Ross and final resting place for 21 Medal of Honor recipients among many others

**Bartram's Garden** , 54th and Woodland (Rte. 36) America's first botanical garden and home to famed naturalist, philosopher and entrepreneur John Bartram and son William Bartram....plant sales, tours of historic house and much more....boats also connect with the Fairmount Waterworks along the Schuylkill. Easy access from the No. 36 trolley, getting off at 54th St. across from the gate.

Continued from previous page..

**John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum** (Rt.36) (requires a 4 block walk) Pennsylvania's largest freshwater tidal marsh, open daily free of charge with canoeing, bird watching and nature walks to refresh the soul.

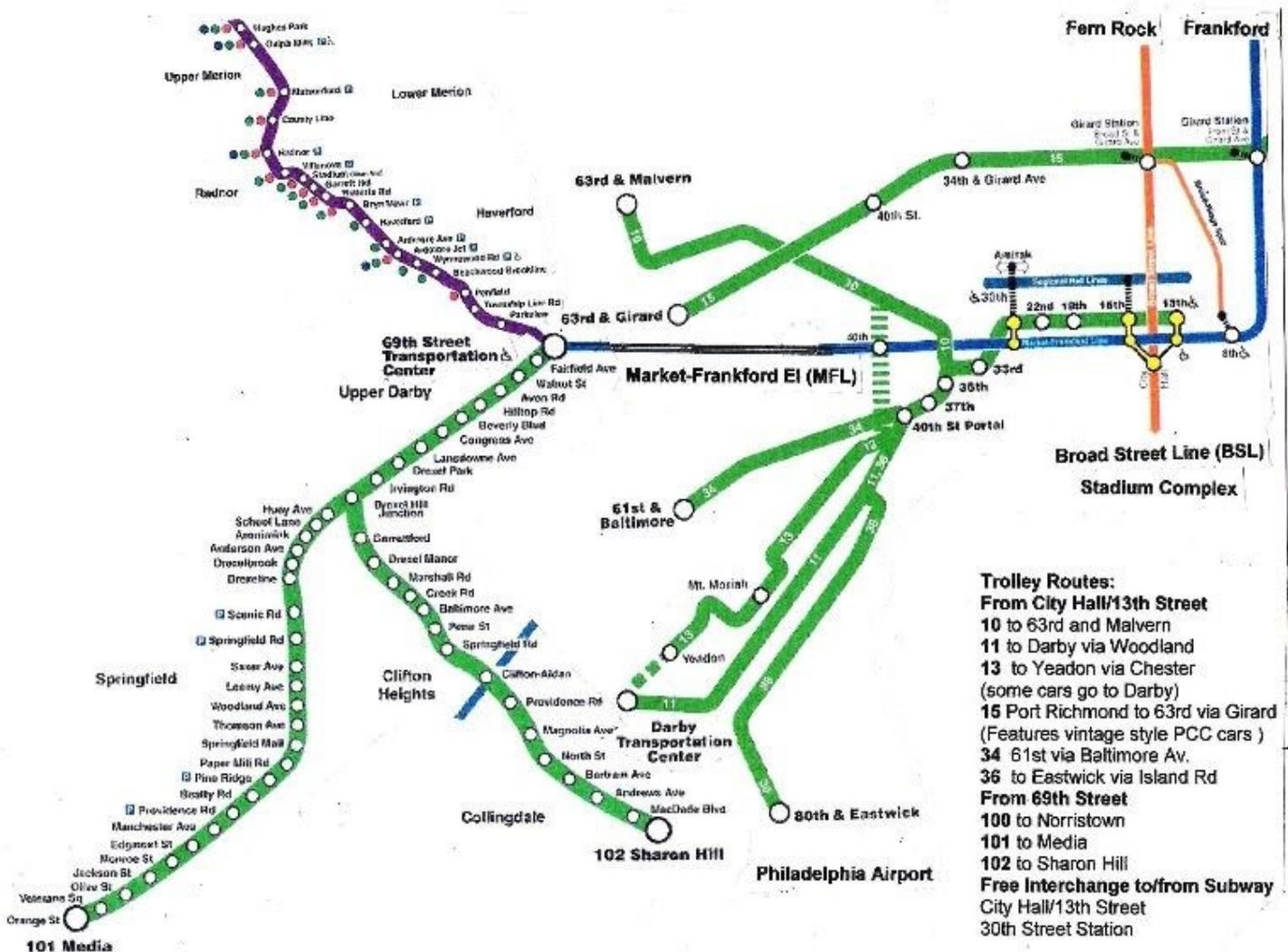
**Minshall House/Providence Friends Meeting**, Media (Rt. 101) Quaker Thomas Minshall purchased 625 Acres from William Penn in 1682 and also donated the land for Providence Friends Meeting across the street.

**The Grange Estate**, Haverford (Rt. 100) A National Register property, the Grange began sometime around 1700 and hosted many notables including George Washington and Lafayette.

**Swedish Cabin**, (circa 1650) Creek Road, Drexel Hill (Rt 102) A bit of a hike from the trolley stop but worth the visit. Believed to be part of the New Sweden settlement before Penn's arrival, the cabin was also used by early filmmaker Sigmund Lubin.

**Nitre Hall/Lawrence Cabin** Karakung Drive (Rt. 100) Built around 1800 on Cobbs Creek, Nitre Hall (on the National Register) was the residence of the master of the Nitre Hall Powder Mills. The Lawrence Cabin was built circa 1730 and later moved to the site.

For additional information, visit [www.DarbyHistory.com](http://www.DarbyHistory.com)



## DCVA Expands Water Quality Monitoring!

### We Are Collecting More “Bugs” and Data. Join the Fun!

By Derron LaBrake, Ann Jackson, Rich Horwitz

Thanks to a substantial grant from The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, DCVA has expanded water quality monitoring in the headwaters of the Cobbs Creek from three sites to ten sites. The data will be used to:

- Document current conditions. Initial sampling has identified two problem areas, one of which falls under the jurisdiction of the MS4 permit held by one of the townships; and the other concerns nutrient issues that need to be addressed.
- Assess the impact of current storm water control projects on stream water quality in this section of Cobbs Creek.
- Identify additional projects and sites for improving stormwater control; nutrient loads and stream water quality.
- Feed more data into the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI)/William Penn Foundation (WPF)/Lower Merion Conservancy (LMC) grant.

#### SITES

Under the leadership of Derron LaBrake macroinvertebrates (the bugs) and “chemistries” are collected at the following sites (listed from upstream to downstream): Haverford College, Chestnutwold, Ardmore Ave, Hathaway Lane (aka: Upstream Cobbs site previously



sampled as part of the WPF/LMC monitoring, Wynne-wood Station, Beechwood, Powder Mill Park, Township Line (aka: Downstream Cobbs site (previously sampled as part of the WPF/LMC monitoring), McCall's Golf Course (aka: Tributary to Cobbs previously sampled as part of the WPF/LMC), Golf Driving Range on US Rt#1.

#### CHEMISTRIES

Dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, hardness, turbidity, and temperature are measured with a meter. Water samples from a subset of the sample sites are going to be analyzed at a laboratory for total dissolved solids, chlorine, nitrogen, and total and ortho-phosphate.

#### MACROINVERTEBRATES

Surber Samplers are used to collect macroinvertebrates in shallow water, riffle areas at 8 randomly selected spots per site. Macros are being identified by two sub-contractors. Stay tuned for results. Thanks to Derron, Nora, Rich, and Ann who collected at these sites.

If you missed these events- Do not despair!

You can join the future sampling events: July-Sept, 2016; Oct-Dec 2016; and Jan-March 2017. Contact Derron LaBrake [dlabrake@wetlandsandecology.com](mailto:dlabrake@wetlandsandecology.com).

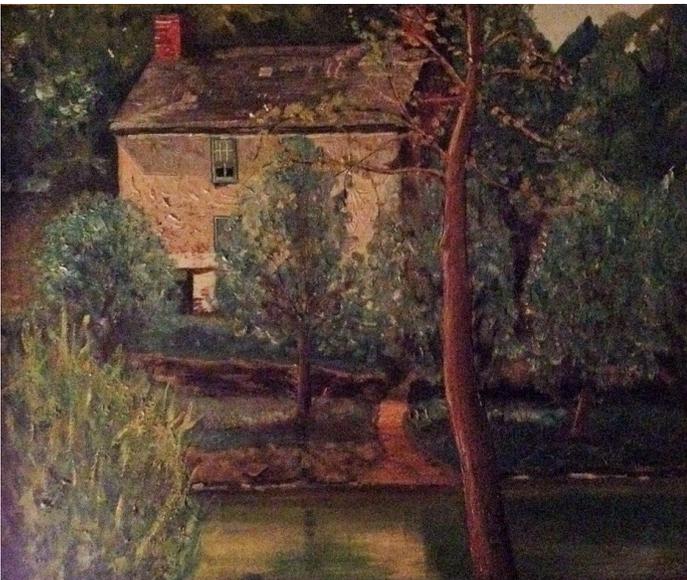


Left: Nora Schmidt sampling in Cobbs Creek, Powermill Park, Haverford, PA . Above: Derron LaBrake sampling in Cobbs Creek downstream of City Ave. in Upper Darby. Not pictured Ann Jackson. Photos by Rich Horwitz.

## Valley House 1844-2016

By John Haigis

The Valley House on the Darby Creek is now just a memory. After the vote to demolish the Valley House in December 2015, the building finally came down in March, 2016. The site, originally slated for a bird sanctuary and now part of the greenway between Burnley Manor and the Swedish Cabin, remains. Also remaining is Valley House LLC, a public/private partnership formed to enlist broad support to bring the Valley House, and other endangered and neglected structures, back to life. Using principles of asset-based community development (looking at assets we already have with new eyes for general benefit) and building conservation, the intent is to use these older buildings with good bones to teach the necessary but neglected skills (like plaster and wooden window repair) for taking care of such buildings, thus creating new life and opportunities for buildings, people, and communities. Since more than half of the existing buildings in the United States were built before 1940, and because the greenest building is the one already constructed because of the embodied energy of materials and past investment, there is both a need and an opportunity. The current "gut and sheet rock" ethos of the modern day leads to materials being taken to a landfill unnecessarily, and a waste of resources. There is a better way. For additional information visit [www.DarbyHistory.com/Academy1](http://www.DarbyHistory.com/Academy1).



Left: Oil painting by JP Hoot of Valley House circa 1936 presented by the artist to the Birch family

Below Left: Valley House 2015

Below Right: Valley House today

*Photos by John Haigis*



## EASTWICK IN ACTION

BY Earl Wilson

The on-going activities in and around the Eastwick Community seems to be having an uplifting, positive effect on its residents. Those who have been following these events can and should feel somewhat optimistic about the future of Eastwick. They are enlightened by these positive activities but they also realize that they have to remain vigil and actively involved in these community activities because there is so much more to be done.

One of the most exciting and invaluable event that occurred in the Eastwick Community happened at the Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. During the latter part of March, 2016, Dan Ashe, the Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Service came to Heinz Refuge and announce that it would be the recipient of a **One million dollars** Federal Grant. This is a recurring grant that will be in place for years to come. The Heinz Refuge, as well as the Eastwick Community will benefit from this grant because of the programs that have already been planned by Heinz manager, Lamar Gore and his administration. As you can remember from the last issue of the VALLEY, it was mentioned that there was a movement, in concept, to form a National Urban Wildlife Refuge, the only one in the United States. Mr. Gore was able to get the support from a number of city, state and federal officials, including Dan Ashe. This time, Mr. Ashe has returned to Heinz, along with governmental representatives including Philadelphia's Mayor Jim Kenney; United States Congressman, Jim Meehan; United States Congressman Bob Brady and Terry Williams, President of Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition to officially present the above mentioned grant to financially support the implementation of the National Urban Refuge Wildlife Concept.

The East Community is already benefiting from Heinz's "Urban Refuge" endeavor. The administration at Heinz is presently reaching out to various schools in the Philadelphia and surrounding counties by making an attempt at supplementing the science programs at these schools. The Environmental Science staff members at Heinz regularly visit these schools, taking with them well designed science programs that can be taught in the classrooms. The students from this school are also bussed to Heinz, where they can be exposed to an array of "hands-on" and "trips through the trails" that will give them, especially urban students, more experience with studying science in the outdoors. Heinz is also increasing its efforts to bring to the refuge more adult visitors from Eastwick and the surrounding communities. As you can see, the future looks great for Heinz and its neighbors.

The National Urban Wildlife Refuge at Heinz can now move forward, with surety, knowing that it has the financial support from the above mentioned Federal Grant.

On April 23, 2016, many of Eastwick residents helped clean up the Cobbs Creek from 78th Street to the railroad trestle near Woodland Avenue. There were also volunteers from Eastwick friends and Neighbors Coalition, Eastwick Action Committee, Friends of Heinz and Darby Creek Valley Association. Representatives from these groups, along with a major assist from the City of Philadelphia, assisted with the cleanup and supervising of this activity. I might add that Darby Creek Valley Association has been doing these cleanup projects for many years along the Darby Creek and Cobbs Creek. The combined effort this year, for DCVA, is to work with Eastwick residents and others to help to clean up the Eastwick section of the Cobbs Creek. This is definitely an attempt to help improve the environment in the watershed.

*Continued on next page..*



Earl Wilson volunteered at the new cleanup site in Eastwick for the 2016 watershed wide cleanup.

*Photo by D. Beer*

*Continued from previous page....*

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission invited members of its Steering Committee to review the results of data collected from several Steering Committee and public meetings. This meeting, held on April 14, 2016, gave the Steering Committee the opportunity to question and/or suggest additional changes as the Lower Southwest District Plan moves forward. I must add that there will be an additional segment relative to Eastwick that will be discussed at a later date. Some of the residents on this Steering Committee came from this meeting somewhat optimistic about this planning process, but they are also anxiously awaiting to see the final product and how the city will react and implement the plan.

To the readers of *The Valley* as you can infer from the events above, the Eastwick section of Southwest Philadelphia is beginning to move forward with a number of positive issues in its future. Please stay tuned because, hopefully, there is more to come!

## **Management of Watershed Impervious surfaces**

**By Carl Dupoldt**

Stormwater runoff is rainfall that flows over the ground surface. It is created when rain falls on roads, driveways, parking lots, rooftops and other paved surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground. Stormwater runoff is the number one cause of stream impairment in urban areas. Where rain falls on paved surfaces, a much greater amount of runoff is generated compared to runoff from the same storm falling over a forested area. These large volumes of water are swiftly carried to our local streams, lakes, wetlands and rivers and can cause flooding and erosion, and wash away important habitat for critters that live in the stream.

An impervious surface is an area on the earth that impedes or prevents the flow of water into the soil. Impervious surfaces increase runoff volume, velocity, temperature, and pollutant loads. Some impervious surfaces, such as bedrock outcrops and clay soils, occur naturally. More often, however, they are a result of human development. Rooftops, parking lots, severely compacted soils, and even gravel roads are all considered impervious surfaces. Studies suggest that noticeable degradation to water bodies begins when watersheds reach just 10% imperviousness. Reducing impervious surfaces involves the minimization of rooftops and pavements, the use of permeable surfacing, the protection of natural conditions, the use of disconnection practices and the application of Low Impact Development principles.

Reducing impervious surfaces can help mitigate the impact that urbanization has on important portions of the water cycle. When impervious surfaces are minimized, water infiltration into the ground, pollution filtration by soils, recharge of groundwater supplies, and control of flash flooding is maximized. Collectively this improves water quality, decreases chemical, nutrient and pathogen contamination, reduces erosion, protects habitats, and helps keep recreation areas safe for human use and enjoyment. Reductions in impervious cover also help reduce localized heat island effects. Traditional pavements can reach temperatures in excess of 120–150°F in the summer, heating stormwater as it runs off the pavement.

Low impact development Regulations are another great way to improve stormwater management and protect habitats, floodplains, and other vital parts of the stream ecosystem. Conventional development often treats stormwater with “pipe-and-pond” systems that collect rainwater and discharge it off the site. In contrast, low impact development (LID) treats stormwater as part of site design, not a secondary consideration. LID site design preserves natural features, places buildings and roads in less sensitive areas, and improves stormwater management.

## Naylor's Run by Carl DuPoldt

Naylor's Run is a tributary to Cobbs Creek which in turn is a tributary to Darby Creek in southeast Pennsylvania. This stream is about 4.6 miles long. It arises in Haverford Township between Darby Road and N. Eagle Road. It flows south into Upper Darby where it is piped underground in from Sherbrook Boulevard to Walnut Park Drive. Naylor's Run joins Cobbs Creek near 63rd St and Cedar Lane in Philadelphia, PA.

Thousands of feet of Naylor's Run were channeled into underground culverts to facilitate commercial and residential development in the filled land above the pipes. Naylor's run has undergone a great deal of hydro-modification, meaning that the original stream channel has been changed over time with human settlements. Such modification has changed the stream dramatically from its original state. Some of the issues for the Naylor's Run watershed include:

Stormwater management	Nutrient Enrichment	Sedimentation
Aging Infrastructure	Lack of Baseflow	Water Temperature
Source Water Quality	Habitat Loss	Safety
Degraded Waterways	Human impacted stream channels	Trash and Vandalism

At one time Naylor's Run was diverted into Llanerch Quarry, turning the quarry into a 200 foot deep lake. The township became concerned that someone might drown in the lake or that nearby houses or roads might collapse into it. Fortunately starting in the 1980s the quarry began to be filled with clean fill from the construction of the Blue Route. The site is now a shopping area.

In addition to the physical changes listed above, pollution has also affected Naylor's Run. In 1947, the National Wood Preservers wood treatment plant at the intersection of Eagle Road and West Hillcrest Avenue in Havertown was built along its banks. Waste products from the plant included oil, dioxins, and pentachlorophenol. These wastes and others were not treated but deposited into an on-site well and leaked into the creek for several decades. These chemicals fed directly into Naylor's Run Creek and eventually into the Delaware River, for which the creek is a tributary. National Wood Preservers did not cooperate with local and federal government requests to clean up the site. The US Environmental Protection Agency declared it a Superfund Site; state and federal agencies assumed responsibility for the cleanup.

There are nice stretches of Naylor's Run. One nice place to visit is Naylor's Run Park. DCVA board member Clyde Hunt has led several tree planting projects there. The park is highly recommended on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Naylor's-Run-Park/151094564907714>

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<http://viewer.nationalmap.gov/viewer/>

<http://viewer.nationalmap.gov/viewer/>

Naylor's Run during the 2015 Darby Creek Clean-up

Photo by Rachel and Mike Walker



## Cricker's Corner

### Sponges Sponge Darby Creek Memories for this Cricker

By Tom Roy Smith



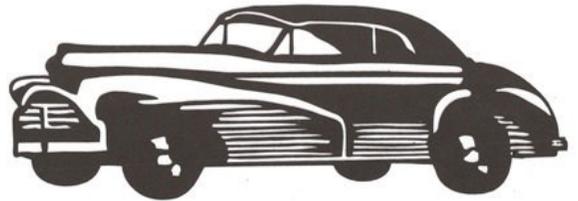
Sponges, natural sponges of the real life sort, were the source of much local family, fun sport. -- Listen, recall with me. Washing the family car was spritz, scrub, wet fun. For us, believe it or not, the water we 'spritzed' on the car was Darby Creek water. The wheel bases got the best washing because cars were actually driven into the creek to wash them.

Those to whom this talk is easy recall, know well the family car was once counted a member of the family. We considered ourselves lucky if we had a car- just one car. A great fun family sport was squirting large Florida sponges as we washed the car. By and by between playful squirts at our sibs, by and by, the car got washed.

For anyone unfamiliar with their use in the bygone sport of car washing--past time sponges were bigger, and had to be clutched with both hands. They were natural sponges, collected from the sea floor. Nowadays, the only sponges available are artificial sponges made of wood fibers or plastic. Natural sponges, rare and expensive, are used today only for makeup application and sponge painting.

New age artificial sponges have small holes which produce wee size suds. Fun reversely, the holes of 'real' sponges bore, bountiful large holes, which exhaled BIG suds bubbles. Big suds bubbles, broadcasted grand sunlit sparkles. -- When they popped near the face, the splish pelted a felt splash.

The local nearest swimming hole for this Cricker was the creek bend just upstream from the 1600's Swedish log cabin. The family car, being 'family', got bathed with us while we, in our swim trunks, frolicked in the Darby's natural flowing currents. Bathe, of course, we did at home. I do recall using the same sort of sponges, so I do testify – by using these same big bubble-makers, tub bubbles took on the same fun size as those we reveled, in the crick. -- Thank you for listening.



### JOIN THE DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION TODAY!

*The Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of all of the watershed's resources, including water, wildlife, historical sites, and the floodplains. The organizations immediate goals are to prevent all forms of pollution in the Darby Creek and its tributaries, to prohibit dumping and construction on the floodplain and to expand our educational programs for all residents within the watershed. It Also seeks to improve water quality and maintain a debris-free stream through clean-ups and public education. DCVA works to preserve historic properties, such as the Swedish Cabin and the Blue Bell Inn. The Association would like to set aside the more than 30 miles of valley for use as a greenway for all residents to enjoy. We need your support. Help us continue to protect the environment for ourselves and our children.*

**We invite you to fill in the form below, check member category, and mail form with your check to:**

**The Darby Creek Valley Association, PO Box 732, Drexel Hill, PA 19026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual member.....\$25

Family member.....\$35

Corporate or Municipality.....\$50

Senior Citizen or Student.....\$10

Non-Profit Group.....\$35

Life Member .....\$250

**DCVA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization– All Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.**

# CALENDAR

- DCVA Board Meetings .....Third Saturday of each month  
Delaware County Peace Center
- Friday September 9th.....Darby Creek Canoe Ramble  
John Heinz Natl Wildlife Refuge
- Sunday September 11th .....Darby Creek Canoe/Kayak Race  
John Heinz Natl Wildlife Refuge

GO TO WWW.DCVA.ORG FOR DETAILS AND TIMES

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